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**Lourenço, Miguel Rodrigues. A articulação da periferia: Macau e a Inquisição de Goa (c. 1582–1650)**

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and exploitation, across the boundary that separated and protected the Holy Roman Empire from the Ottoman world beyond it—the imperial ideal and the humanist empire may acquire an even broader and more complex meaning.

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**Lourenço, Miguel Rodrigues.**

*A articulação da periferia: Macau e a Inquisição de Goa (c. 1582–1650).*

Lisbon: Centro Científico e Cultural de Macau, I.P e Fundação Macau, 2016.

Pp. 368. ISBN 978-972-8586-47-8 (paperback) €20.

Miguel Rodrigues Lourenço's book joins the important body of literature that adds to our knowledge of Portugal's tribunal of the Inquisition in Goa, the only such overseas tribunal, which was founded in 1560. The tribunal itself, which poses a host of historical problems for scholars, has seen an explosion of attention in recent years. This book is an important complement to our knowledge; it breaks new ground both in its subject and its approach. With the clear support of years of solid archival scholarship, Rodrigues Lourenço deals with the activities of the tribunal in the port city of Macau, which was a Portuguese possession until 1999, fleshing out the articulation of a periphery: citing that important city as part of Portugal's vast empire during an interval of change—the Iberian Union of Spain and Portugal under the Habsburg crown (1580–1640)—and its immediate aftermath.

As the author insightfully remarks at the outset of the book, other studies have taken into account the repressive activity of the tribunal—its mechanisms of coercion and control—to the detriment of the proper study of the institutional strategies for its implantation in the overseas territories of the Portuguese Empire, as elaborated from the centre. His book is thus a welcome addition to the lively debate on centre/periphery in current historiography. Rodrigues Lourenço rightly sees the tribunal as a manifestation of the Portuguese expansion in Asia, and his study aims to redress some of the shortcomings of current works on that tribunal and its activities, relying not only on the latest historiography but also on the social sciences and a wealth of archival sources held in several countries.

The book is divided into three chapters that chronicle the creation and early life of the tribunal in Goa and its activities in Macau. Chapter 1, “A Inquisição portuguesa e a projeção sobre o território (1541–1640),” takes up the early activity of the Inquisition in Portugal, beginning in 1536: namely, the creation of the tribunal in the *Estado da Índia* which was, at the outset, entrusted to the Society of Jesus. As the territory overseen by the jurisdiction was so large, and at a periphery, the institution had to rely on a system of commissars who would regularly travel to oversee its functioning. The author evokes some of the many challenges posed by factors such as climate, long distance communication, and intercultural transfers. The second chapter, “O Santo Ofício e Macau no Século XVI. A aproximação à Cidade do Nome de Deus na China,” provides readers with an intimate portrait of the early functioning of the tribunal of Goa through its commissars and visitations to Macau between 1581 and 1602, a period that saw often-violent confrontation and debates about the limits and frontiers of episcopal and inquisitorial justice. Chapter 3, “O comissariado do Santo Ofício em Macau (c. 1599–c.1650). O peso das relações informais no desempenho do ministério inquisitorial,” deals with the wider picture of the activity of the tribunal in the peripheral space of Macau, as a reflection of some of the inherent problems and tensions involved in constructing and managing a periphery that was distant from the centre on several levels.

The book is sure to be of interest for the growing number of readers who study the tribunal of Goa, and the Portuguese Inquisition in general, but also for scholars of Jesuit history, of Catholic missionary work in Asia, of early modern Asia itself, and of European–Asian connections. While it situates the problem of this peripheral tribunal in the wider picture of the Portuguese tribunal of the Inquisition and, indeed, the Portuguese Empire, it also explores local history and treats readers to an intimate portrait of Macau during that period, and the many situations of conflict there. Well researched, insightful, and challenging, this new book by Rodrigues Lourenço deserves a position of regard in current historiography.

JAMES NELSON NOVOA

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